¶ By the King.

A Proclamation for reformation of great abuſes in Meaſures, publiſhed by the Kings Commandement.

Whereas for the auoiding of varietie and deceits of Weights and Meaſures, diuers Statutes, Acts and good Ordinances haue heretofore beene made, That one Weight, and one Meaſure ſhould bee vſed throughout the Realme, And where, according to the Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelfth yeeres of the reigne of the late king of famous memorie King Henry the ſeuenth, there were made, ſent, and deliuered into diuers Cities and Townes, ſpecified in a Schedule vnto the ſayd Acte of 11.H.7. annexed, Weights and Meaſures of Braſſe according to the Standards thereof remaining in the Treaſurie of the Exchequer, to remaine in the keeping of the Maior, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being, of euery of the ſame Citie or Towne, as the kings Standard of Weight and Meaſure, With authoritie and power giuen by the ſame Statute, to the ſayd Maior, Bailiffe, or other head Officer, hauing the ſayd Weights and Meaſures, to make, ſigne and print like Weights and Meaſures vnto euery of the kings ſubiects, duely requiring the ſame, as by the ſayde Statutes more at large appeareth: And Whereas alſo our late Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth late Queen of England, being enformed that the ſaid Standard meaſures remaining in thoſe Cities and Townes, for the moſt part were by long continuance of time, or for want of good keeping, or other defects or abuſes, differing & not agreeing with the ancient Standard of Meaſures remaining in her Highneſſe Exchequer at Weſtminſter, by occaſion Whereof the Meaſures commonly vſed Within the Realme were vncertain, & varying one from another, to the great ſlander of the ſame, the diſquieting of the Subiects, and the deceiuing of many both buyers and ſellers, Did giue order and commandement to the L. Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, to cauſe all the ancient Standard meaſures of all thoſe ſeuerall Cities and Townes to be brought in before them at the Exchequer at Weſtminſter, to be examined and tryed by the Standard meaſure there remaining, according to Which her Maieſties commandement, the Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer haue cauſed all the ancient Standard meaſures of all thoſe ſeuerall Cities and Townes to be brought before them into the ſayd Exchequer, Where diuerſe of them vpon diligent and due triall and examination haue bene found defectiue, differing and diſagreeing from the true and ancient Standard of the ſayd Exchequer.

Whereupon the ſayd late Queene intending the common & publique good of all her louing Subiects, and to auoide all differences and deceipts of Meaſure Within her Highneſſe Realme, vpon good and deliberate aduiſe, and due conſideration therein had, Did not onely eſtabliſh the foreſayd true and ancient Standard of Meaſures remaining in the ſayd Exchequer, there to continue and be, as her Maieſties Standard, to examine, trie, and ſize all other Meaſures of the Realme by, from time to time as occaſion ſhall require: But alſo did giue commandement to the Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer to cauſe all the other Meaſures Which were brought before them (from the Cities and Townes afore ſaid) found vpon triall to be differing and diſagreeing from the true and ancient Standards of meaſures of the ſayd Exchequer, to be broken.

BIBLIOTHECA REGIA

1 June. 1603

And further her Maieſtie did giue order and commandement vnto the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, forthwith to cauſe new Standards of meaſures in Braſſe to be made, tryed, and approoued by the ſayd true and ancient Standard of the Exchequer, and after true and iuſt examination and triall thereof had and made, to ſize and ſeale (with the letter E crowned) ſuch and ſo many Standard meaſures, for euery of the ſaid ſeuerall Cities and Townes limited to haue the cuſtodie of Weights and meaſures, according to the Queenes Standard for euery Shire by the ſaid ſchedule annexed vnto the ſaid Statute made in the eleuenth yeere of the Reigne of King Henry the ſeuenth, there to remaine for euer in the keeping of the Mayor, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being of the ſayd City and Towne as her Standard of meaſure, as to them ſhould ſeeme neceſſary and conuenient. And alſo as many as may ſerue and be conuenient for the Clarke of the Market of her Highneſſe houſhold (and through the Realme) or his Deputies, according to the Statute of Anno 13. R. 2. Cap 3. And alſo as might or ſhould ſerue for any other her Maieſties Officers or Subiects within this Realme, as ſhould make ſuite for the hauing and obtaining of the ſame.

And now our Soueraigne Lord the Kings Maieſtie, minding likewiſe the quiet and publique good of all his louing Subiects of the ſame, And for the right and iuſt maintenance, and execution of all thoſe good and godly Lawes in that behalfe heretofore made by his moſt noble Progenitors, to be daily vſed and put in execution amongſt all his ſayd Subiects of this his Highnes Realme of England, aſwell within Liberties as without; His Maieſties Will and pleaſure is, That the Mayors, Bayliffes, Portreues, Wardens, and other head Officers of euery of the ſayde Cities, Boroughes, Townes, Cinqueports, and places mentioned in the ſchedule annexed to the ſayde Statute of Anno 11. H7. which haue not already receiued the ſayde new Standard Meaſure from the ſayd Exchequer, before the feaſt of All Saints next comming, at the common charge of the ſame place, ſhall ſend ſome ſufficient perſon vnto the ſayd Exchequer, authorized to receiue ſuch Standards as ſhall be deliuered vnto him, by the order and appoyntment of the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, for the ſayd City, Borough, Towne, or place, And to pay ſuch reaſonable prices for the ſame, as vpon true valuation of the ſame ſhalbe by the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer rated or aſſeſſed: which Standards, euery of the ſayd Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers vnto whom it ſhall appertaine, ſhall ſafely keepe or cauſe to bee kept in ſome ſure and conuenient place in the ſame Citie, Borough, or Towne, and by them make or ſize, or cauſe to bee made or ſized, other common Meaſures for the vſe of all maner of people in the ſame City, Borough, Towne, or place that ſhall haue cauſe to vſe Meaſures. And ſhall alſo make, ſigne, and print with the firſt letter of the name of the ſame City, Borough, Towne, or place where the ſame meaſure ſhalbe ſo made, ſized, and printed, like Meaſures vnto euery of the Kings Subiects duely requiring the ſame, taking ſuch fees for the doing thereof as by the Statutes of the Realme are allowed, and no more. And euery of the ſayd Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities, Boroughes, Townes, and places within this Realme, ſhall further do and cauſe to be done, all ſuch other Acte and Actes, thing and things, for the prouiding, hauing, and vſing of the ſayde Standards of Meaſures, as be limited and appoynted to their or any of their authoritie by the ſayd Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelfth yeeres of the late King Henrie the ſeuenth, or any other Statute or Ordinance whatſoeuer: So as all the Meaſures through the Realme may bee reformed and made agreeable according to the Standard of the Exchequer, as by the ſayd Statutes in ſuch caſe is required. And his Maieſtie further ſtraightly chargeth and commandeth, That no perſon or perſons ſhall from the aforeſaide feaſt of All Saints next comming, vſe any other Meaſure or Meaſures, but ſuch

St. Le 953(2)

as ſhall be made or ſized, and reſpectiuely agreeing with the layd Standards, and printed and marked with the letter I crowned, with ſuch markes and letters for euery towne as before is limitted, vpon paine to be apprehended, committed to priſon, fined and puniſhed, as contriuers and vſers of falſe Meaſures, according to the Statutes in that caſe made and prouided. And that this Proclamation for the better inſtructing of al his Maieſties Subiects, ſhal before the feaſt of S. Bartholomew the Apoſtle now next comming, be proclaimed in euery Market towne thorow the Realme, and be hanged vp, and faſtened in a Table in the Market place by an Officer, where it may continue to bee ſeene and read by any that will. And that the defaults of Officers, of euery towne in this behalfe, ſhalbe enquired of & puniſhed by the Iuſtices of Aſſile, and Iuſtices of Peace in their Seſſions, according to their diſcretions, as contemners of his Maieſties commandement. And that all the Standards and Meaſures whatſoeuer, not ſized, marked and printed, and made reſpectiuely agreeing to and with the foreſaid Standards, and the true meaning of this proclamation, ſhal from the ſaid feaſt of S. Bartholomew the Apoſtle next comming, which ſhalbe in the yeere of our Lord God 1603. be reputed and taken for vntrue meaſures, and ſhall be broken, defaced and deſtroyed by the owners of the ſame, or by ſuch officers as haue or ſhal haue authority to enquire of falſe weights and meaſures.

And for the better execution hereof, his Highneſſe expreſſe commandement is, That all Maiors, Bailiffes, and other head officers of euery City, Shire, Towne, Borough, or Market within this Realme, ſhall immediatly after the layd Feaſt of S. Bartholomew the Apoſtle, and ſo from time to time according to the ſaid Statute, as all other Corporate, Borough, or Market Townes within this Realme, cauſe to be brought before them all the Meaſures, within the ſame Cities, Boroughs, Corporate or Market Townes, to be duely viewed and examined, and ſuch as they ſhall finde defectiue or diſagreeing vnto the foreſayd Standard Meaſures, either in greatneſſe or ſmalneſſe, to cauſe to be broken and defaced, and further puniſhment to be done vpon the offenders therein, according to the Statute. And that the Iuſtices of Peace, or two of them (whereof one of them to be of the Quorum) ſhall with all diligence and from time to time, by examination or enquirie heare and determine the defaults of all Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Corporate or Market Townes within their limits or authorities on that behalfe, and to ſet Fines and Amercements vpon the offenders in that behalfe by their diſcretions, and thoſe to eſtreate into the Court of Exchequer, and that vpon paine of the puniſhment due for ſuch contempt.

And laſtly, his Maieſtie ſtraightly chargeth and commandeth all Iuſtices of Aſſize, Iuſtices of Peace, his Highneſſe Clerke of the Market, his deputie or deputies, Maiors, Bailiffes, Stewards of Liberties, and all other his Maieſties Officers and Miniſters whatſoeuer, to cauſe this preſent Proclamation, and all Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances, for the hauing and vſing of true Meaſures, and for the aboliſhing the vſe of falſe Meaſures, to be put in execution according to their ſeuerall authorities and Iuriſdictions, as they herein tender the good ſeruice of his Maieſtie, and the Common wealth of this Realme.

Giuen at his Highneſſe Manour of Greenwich the firſt of June, 1603. in the firſt yeere of his Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the ſixe and thirtieth.

God ſaue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie.

ANNO DOM. 1603.